

WASHINGTON - Congressman John W. Olver (D-1st District) announced that the U.S. House of Representatives has approved funding for a wind energy demonstration project at Mount Wachusett Community College. The funding is included in the fiscal year (FY) 2006 Energy and Water Appropriations conference report. "Wind technology holds great promise as a local, renewable form of energy," Olver said. "This demonstration project will allow Mount Wachusett Community College to develop a renewable energy demonstration facility. The results of this project will be used to demonstrate the viability of similar projects throughout the region. Mount Wachusett Community College has been successful in demonstrating other renewable energy technologies. This project also will allow two local municipal light companies, Templeton and Ashburnham Municipal Light Companies, to explore the use of wind energy. The demonstration project is an outgrowth of a strategic plan to rebuild the economy of the Northern Tier of Massachusetts. To address these challenges, in FY03 Congressman Olver secured \$150,000 in federal funding for the Northern Tier Regional Council of Governments (FRCOG) to commission a study. Mt. Auburn Associates of Northampton, a consulting firm specializing in economic development, conducted the study. Renewable Energy was one of six strategic areas that the study highlighted as potential economic generators.

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